का अधिग्रहण किये जाने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) क्या प्रस्तावित अधिग्रहण के विरुद्ध कोई ज्ञापन प्राप्त हुए हैं?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री शरद पवार) : (क) से (ग) उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार इलाहाबाद में 235.007 एकड़ रक्षा भूमि का उपयोग कर रही है। राज्य सरकार ने इस भूमि को उन्हें स्थायी तौर पर अन्तरित करने के लिए रक्षा मंत्रालय से अनुरोध किया था। रक्षा मंत्रालय ने इस भूमि के अन्तरण के लिए इस शर्त पर सहमति दी थी कि समान मूल्य की वैकल्पिक भूमि रक्षा उपयोग के लिए उपलब्ध करा दी जाएगी।

तदनुसार राज्य सरकार ने इस उद्देश्य के लिए इलाहाबाद जिले की करचना तहसील के 14 गांवों में भूमि निश्चित की थी। किन्तु इस भूमि के प्रस्तावित अधिग्रहण के खिलाफ अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त होने के कारण राज्य सरकार ने अधिग्रहण के लिए "अनापत्ति प्रमाण-पत्र" जारी नहीं किया है।

Reduction of strength of Indian Army

1998. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any suggestion through the media or otherwise to reduce the strength of Indian Army; and

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The size/strength and structure of the Army is periodically reviewed, keeping in view the external threat assessment and internal security requirements of the country.

Cases pending between army contractors and MES Department in J&K

1999. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases pending in courts of Jammu and Kashmir High Court between Army contractors and MES Department for the last more than five years;

(b) the numbar of cases involving the contratcors in misappropriation of cement and steel together with the details of losses incurred by Government in this regard;

(c) the number of cases where the contractors left their works unfinished in Srinagar and Government had to complete such works at high rates and the steps Government have taken in such cases; and

(d) the number of cases in which Government have not paid the dues to contractors during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) There are 141 such cases pending in Courts of Jammu and Kashmir/J&K High Court.

(b) There are 15 cases where the contractors were held to be involved in misappropriation of cement and steel, involving a loss of Rs. 19.23 lakhs. Cases for recovery are pending in Courts/with Arbitrators, for dacrees against the contractors concerned.

(c) In 10 cases, the contractors left the works unfinished in Srinagar. In 7 of these cases, works were got completed at the risk and cost of the original contractor. In 3 cases the contractors detained stay orders from the Courts, restraining the Department from concluding the risk and cost contracts, these cases are now before Courts/Arbitrators for obtaining decrees to effect recoveries of the extra cost incurred in completing the works/for vacating the stay.

(d) There are 166 cases in which Government have not paid dues to the contractors during the last five years. These